

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1327  
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to recognize Representative Jamie Hagood of Knoxville on her meritorious service as a member of the House of Representatives of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor our colleagues who in their years in office have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Representative Jamie Hagood is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for six years representing the 17th House District in Knox and Jefferson counties; as a legislator, her service to and concern for her constituents has been unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, Jamie Hagood was first elected to serve the 17th House District in 1998 with 56% of the vote in a seat previously held by a Democrat, thus proving she could attract support from across the political spectrum; and

WHEREAS, having served with great distinction in the 101st through the 103rd General Assemblies, Representative Hagood is pursuing a higher, if less prestigious, elected office after the expiration of her current term; and

WHEREAS, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where she was named a Torchbearer, the highest honor given by the University; and

WHEREAS, Jamie Hagood next graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law and began practicing law in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, she presently serves with acumen and alacrity as General Counsel for Camel Manufacturing Company, representing over 300 employees who comprise the Camel family and helping create newer, higher paying jobs for East Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her professional endeavors, she is actively involved in grassroots politics and several civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, Jamie Hagood is an active and important part of her community who participates in numerous worthy organizations, including service as Chair of the Advisory Board of the Junior League of Knoxville, a member of the Advisory Board of the Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley, and a member of the Allocations Panel of The United Way; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a member of several grassroots Republican organizations, she is also a graduate of Leadership Knoxville, a member of South Knoxville Rotary, and sits on the Boards of Directors of the Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee, which organization recognized her in 2004 "for her commitment to and support of families living with epilepsy"; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, she is the recipient of the Alzheimer's Association of East Tennessee's "Stand By Us" Award; and

WHEREAS, she is a past Board member of the John Sevier Foundation, the Volunteer Ministry Center, and the Knoxville Quarterback Club, which she has previously served as Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, during her illustrious career in the House of Representatives, Jamie Hagood has served on the House standing committees of Commerce, Education, and Rules; her colleagues on both sides of the aisle accord her high marks for her legislative acumen, skill in debate, and thorough knowledge of complex state government issues; and

WHEREAS, she was named a "Rising Star" by *The Tennessean* in 1999 and was recognized by the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* in a story profiling legislative standouts during the 2003 session; and

WHEREAS, she has served astutely as Republican Floor Leader during the 102nd and 103rd General Assemblies, distinguishing her as the only woman in House Republican leadership; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's higher education system has been a major concern for Jamie Hagood throughout her estimable tenure in the House; she has pursued this concern as Vice Chair of the House Higher Education Subcommittee and as a member of the Select Oversight Committee on Education; and

WHEREAS, as Vice Chair of the House Higher Education Subcommittee, Representative Hagood has spearheaded efforts to reform the State's higher education funding

formula, and as a member of the Select Oversight Committee on Education, she has strived to ensure the efficient use of public education funds and to improve every child's opportunity for a quality educational experience; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of promoting educational accountability at all levels of the process and crafting policies and programs to serve the unique needs of individual schools and individual students, she has also sponsored legislation to allow public schools to operate innovative education programs that would emphasize school-based decision making and the creation of smaller learning communities; and

WHEREAS, endeavoring to place the best interest of each individual child at the forefront of educational policy, she has sponsored an amendment to the current Charter School law to allow "at-risk" children to attend charter schools; and

WHEREAS, she has been actively involved in structuring the Tennessee Education Scholarship program as a member of the Lottery Oversight Committee and has been actively involved in issues relating to early childhood development and day care safety; and

WHEREAS, her membership on the House Commerce Committee and its Industrial Impact Subcommittee has provided Jamie Hagood with a medium by which to make Tennessee a more desirable place to locate industry; and

WHEREAS, she has also established an excellent track record of meeting the needs of her constituents by securing Homeland Security Grants and acquiring much needed aid for local governments; and

WHEREAS, after redistricting added Jefferson County to her district for the 2002 elections, Representative Hagood worked assiduously to acquaint herself with her new constituents, and she was once again sent to Nashville by the voters; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Representative Hagood sponsored and expertly guided to passage legislation to fund the restoration of the historic Tennessee Theater in Knoxville, thus ensuring that future generations will have the opportunity to create their own wonderful memories of this historic landmark; recognizing the State's responsibility to provide a safe learning environment for our children in public schools, she passed legislation requiring the notification of a school principal if a student with a criminal record is placed in his or her school; and

WHEREAS, also in 2003, Representative Hagood received unanimous support in both the House and Senate for legislation she sponsored to protect the elderly from financial and physical abuse and exploitation; this new law allows financial institutions to share information with law enforcement if they have reason to believe that an elderly customer is being exploited, either financially or otherwise; and

WHEREAS, during the 2004 session, she has amended the Municipal Court Reform Act to preserve nearly \$600,000 in funding for the City of Knoxville's municipal court system and has helped improve the new criminal summons statute by sponsoring a measure that gives judicial commissioners the authority to issue an arrest warrant in cases related to felony and domestic violence acts, while still retaining the requirement for the service of criminal summonses in all misdemeanor cases; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hagood has also sponsored legislation providing for the administrative issuance of special license plates by the Department of Safety, thus preserving the positive effects of the special license plate program, while eliminating the strife caused by the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, seeking to address the State's air and water pollution problems in a meaningful way, Representative Hagood has sponsored the "Tennessee Agricultural Ethanol Production Act of 2004" to promote the production and use of this most efficient of alternative fuels in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this innovative and far-reaching legislation would improve the state's air and water quality while reducing the incidence of health problems caused by pollution; assist state and local governments in avoiding penalties for federal clean air violations; reduce America's dependency on foreign energy sources; bolster our multi-faceted tourism industry, which relies heavily on the conservation of Tennessee's environment; and enhance agricultural crop diversity and develop better markets for corn and its related products; and

WHEREAS, stalwartly committed to keeping our children and communities safe, she has sponsored the "Tennessee Serious and Violent Sex Offender Monitoring Act"; this legislation would enable law enforcement officials to monitor violent sex offenders by means of Global Positioning Satellite technology when they are released from prison or are released on probation or parole; and

WHEREAS, Jamie Hagood has distinguished herself as a professional, community advocate, and public servant who is stalwartly committed to strengthening education, protecting senior citizens, reforming TennCare, and promoting responsible State government; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable legislative career, Representative Hagood has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her constituents, her colleagues in the House of Representatives, and the members of the Senate; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we bid a fond farewell, but not goodbye, to our friend and colleague, Representative Jamie Hagood, extend to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, every continued success in her future endeavors in the Upper Chamber of the General Assembly, and much happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.